

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

NEA-10 EA-11 DRC-01 /214 W
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P R 061813Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6197

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14353

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: GATT, EEC, US, UK

SUBJECT: PINEAPPLES OF DISCORD IN THE ARTICLE XXIV:6
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7040

1. THE BRITISH ARE FRUSTRATED AND ANNOYED BY FRANCE'S
SUDDEN INTRODUCTION OF NEW DEMANDS ON PINEAPPLE, WHICH
BLOCKED AGREEMENT ON AN OFFER FOR THE ARTICLE XXIV:6
NEGOTIATIONS AT THE DECEMBER 3-4 MEETING OF THE EC
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COUNCIL.

2. THE PROBLEM, ACCORDING TO PETER GENT (THE DTI OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ARTICLE XXIV:6), IS AS FOLLOWS: THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN CONSIDERING INCLUDING CANNED PINEAPPLE IN ITS GENERALIZED PREFERENCES SCHEME AS PART OF ITS ARTICLE XXIV:6 OFFER. THE FRENCH HAVE WANTED TO MAKE THIS DUTY REDUCTION SUBJECT TO A TARIFF QUOTA IN ORDER TO PROTECT PRODUCERS IN MARTINIQUE. NOW, HOWEVER, THEY ARE INSISTING THAT THE COMMUNITY ADOPT AN OVERALL SYSTEM FOR THE SUPPORT OF EC PRODUCERS OF PINEAPPLE. THIS SHOULD BE DONE, THE FRENCH MAINTAIN, BEFORE THE COMMUNITY MAKES AN ARTICLE XXIV:6 OFFER ON CANNED PINEAPPLE. (MARTINIQUE - WHICH IS CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL PART OF FRANCE - IS THE ONLY PLACE IN WHICH PINEAPPLE IS PRODUCED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, ACCORDING TO GENT.)

3. THE BRITISH ARE RESISTING THIS FRENCH DEMAND FOR TWO REASONS: A) THEY WANT TO LIMIT INCREASES IN THE COST OF CANNED PINEAPPLE TO THE BRITISH CONSUMER; B) THEY FEAR THAT OTHER MEMBER STATES MAY BEGIN TO ASK FOR COMPARABLE SPECIAL FAVORS IF THIS CONCESSION IS MADE TO FRANCE, GENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH ARE USING CANNED PINEAPPLE AS A COVER FOR SOME MORE BASIC MOTIVE FOR HOLDING UP THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE CONSIDERS THAT THE FRENCH ARE SIMPLY USING THE DESIRE OF THE OTHER MEMBER STATES TO SETTLE THE ARTICLE XXIV:6 ISSUE AS LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR MARTINIQUE.

4. GENT SAYS THAT THE WHOLE PROBLEM COULD BE SETTLED RAPIDLY IF THE FRENCH AGREE TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF AN OVERALL PRODUCER SUPPORT SYSTEM, AND ACCEPT A TARIFF QUOTA AS AN INTERIM SOLUTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF A COMPROMISE OF THIS SORT CANNOT BE WORKED OUT, EC CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE XXIV:6 COULD DRAG ON FOR SOME TIME.

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30 JUN 2005

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